

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of fatty acid alkyl esters suitable for use as biodiesel from a starting material of fatty acid glycerides selected from the group consisting of vegetable oils, animal oils, fats and, fatty acids and a mixture thereof wherein esterification of the fatty acid and transesterification of the triglycerides is carried out simultaneously, said process comprises the steps of:

- a) reacting fatty acid glycerides and fatty acid present in it with an alcohol having 1-4 carbon atoms in a molar ratio of 3:1 to 30:1 of fatty acids to triglycerides respectively, at a temperature ranging between 70-300°C, pressure in a range of 1-30 bar, in presence of a organometallic catalytic compound of tin wherein the concentration of catalyst is in a range of 0.01 to 3 weight percent of the fatty acid glycerides;
- b) obtaining fatty acid alkyl esters with glycerol;
- c) separating the glycerol from the fatty acid alkyl ester as immiscible phase by decantation;
- d) recovering and recycling the ~~excess~~ alcohol that is in excess by evaporation or distillation
- e) purifying the fatty acid alkyl esters by washing with water, and
- f) purifying the washed ester obtained in step e) by treating with a basic adsorbent to obtain biodiesel by distillation process or combinations thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein fatty acid glycerides are selected from the group consisting of vegetable oil, animal oil, fatty acids and a mixture thereof.
3. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adsorbent is selected from the group consisting of bauxite, clay, alumina, and silica-alumina.
4. (Cancel)
5. (Cancel)
6. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preferred temperature of the reaction is in the range of 150-200°C.
7. (Previously presented) The process as claim 1, wherein the treatment with adsorbent is carried out at 20-60°C.
8. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein excess alcohol is recovered and recycled.
9. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biodiesel obtained has an acid value in a range of 0.01-0.50 mg KOH/g.

10. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biodiesel obtained has viscosity in a range of 4-7 cSt at 40°C.

11. (Currently amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fatty acid alkyl esters produced are suitable for use as fuel in diesel engines, blending component for petrodiesel and as additive in petrofuel ~~petrofuel~~ for enhancing lubricity, cetane number and biodegradability.

12. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst is an alkyl tin oxide.